

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0784

USIA FOR IAA AND IOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MILI, UR, SO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE ON BERBERA/DIEGO GARCIA
AND US-SOMALI RELATIONS

MFA SPOKESMAN (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) ISSUED PRESS RELEASE
MAY 10 EXPLAINING SOMALI POSITION IN WAKE OF RECENT PUBLICITY
SURROUNDING INDIAN OCEAN BASE ISSUE. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS (UN-
NECESSARY WORDS OMITTED);

BEGIN TEXT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, USING VARIED AND MADE UP
EXCUSES, HAS IN PAST COUPLE OF YEARS CONSISTENTLY FOUND SOME
ABSURD PRETEXT TO DISCUSS INDIAN OCEAN LAYOUT (SIC) IN PRESS,
RADIO AND EVEN OFTEN IN HIGHEST OFFICIAL CIRCLES.

DRAMA WAS GIVEN BY UNITED STATES SEVERAL TOTALLY UNCONNECTED
AND ILLOGICAL SETTINGS, BUT IT HAS JUST NOW TAKEN YET ANOTHER
DIMENSION WHOSE EXPOSURE TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION IS
BOUND TO CREATE GOOD DEAL OF MEDITATION. FOR ONE THING, AND IN
SERIOUS BOT# (SIC), COLD WAR SCARE TACTICS USED BY GOVERNMENT

OF UNITED STATES TO FIND JUSTIFICATION FOR DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT
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IS BEING OPENLY CHALLENGED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND CREDIBILITY

OF ADMINISTRATION'S BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS BEING DEMOLISHED BY OPEN AND FORMAL CHALLENGE IN SENATE'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SIC) WHICH WAS IN SESSION LATE LAST WEEK.

DYNAMITE WAS SET OFF WHEN CERTAIN POLICY DISPUTES BETWEEN SECRETARY HENRY KISSINGER AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA, MR. JAMES AKINS, WERE DISCUSSED - DISPUTES SERIOUS ENOUGH TO CAUSE KISSINGER TO DISMISS HIS ENVOY, BUT EQUALLY SERIOUS TO INSTITUTE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION IN SUBCOMMITTEE WHERE ALREADY HARD-HITTING AMMUNITION IS COMING OUT AGAINST ADMINISTRATION IN EVIDENCE SEEPING OUT AND IN QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS AIMED AT PROVING INVALIDITY OF GOVERNMENT'S ALLEGED REASONS FOR BUILDING BASE AT DIEGO GARCIA.

TWO REASONS OF AFFAIR READILY PRESENT THEMSELVES TO PUBLIC SCRUTINY: FIRST, UNITED STATES HYSTERIA IN OFFICIAL AND MASS MEDIA WAS FALSELY BASED ON SO-CALLED USSR INFLUENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AND PRESENCE OF NAVAL OPERATIONAL BASE IN BERBERA. THIS CONTENTION, IN FACT THIS BASELESS ALLEGATION, HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC WHEN, LAST YEAR, SHE OPENLY INVITED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND SENATE AND NUMEROUS INTERNATIONAL PRESS MEN TO VISIT BERBERA TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES TOTAL ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE FOR BASE IN QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD ONE CANNOT FORGET THE VERY WORDS OF PRESIDENT JAALE SIAD IN MESSAGE IN WHICH HE SINCERELY EXPLAINED POSITION OF SOMALIA TO PRESIDENT FORD.

HE SAID: "IT IS CARDINAL PRINCIPLE IN OUR POLICIES TO MAINTAIN OUR CONVICTION OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THIS CONVICTION DOES NOT ALTER OUR HAVING LARGE NUMBER OF FRIENDS IN WORLD, RATHER IT ENHANCES AND GLORIFIES THAT OBJECTIVE. IT DOES NOT CURB OR CONDEMN OUR ABSOLUTE FREEDOM, RATHER IT WIDENS ITS SCOPE. IT NOURISHES OUR SOVEREIGNTY WITH STRENGTH, WITH WHICH, BY THIS PHILOSOPHY, NO FREE NATION CAN TRADE (SIC). WE SEEK STABILITY, HARMONY, PEACE AND SECURITY. WE OPPOSED, AND STILL DO, ANY MILITARY BUILD-UP; WE CONDEMN PRESENCE OF BASES AND SETTING OF MILITARY ARSENALS ANYWHERE IN WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN INDIAN OCEAN AND RED SEA WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN DECLARED ZONES OF PEACE."

IT MUST BE, HOWEVER, CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT RELATIONSHIP
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BETWEEN SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN VERY LONG-STANDING AND VERY DEEPLY CORDIAL. PRESIDENT SIAD IN SAME MESSAGE AND, IN ORDER TO REMOVE ANY MILITARY RHETORIC FROM ACTUAL ROOTS OF FRIENDSHIP (SIC), AGAIN EMPHASIZED POINT: "MR. PRESIDENT, BROTHERLY RELATIONS OF SOMALIA AND SOVIET UNION ARE BASED ON COMMON INTERESTS, EACH GOVERNED BY MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND EQUALITY. WE OFFER SINCERE READINESS, LIKEWISE, TO ESTABLISH BEST OF RELATIONS WITH UNITED

STATES. WE HAVE SHOWN WILLING INDICATIONS FOR DOING SO, AND
IT MY EARNEST HOPE SIMILAR PROVOCATION OOPART OF UNITED STATES
WILL NOT IN FUTURE MAR THE WAY FOR REACHING THAT GOAL."

IT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION, INDISPUTABLY OBVIOUS, THAT INFERENCE
OF SO-CALLED SOVIET INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA HAS BEEN THROWN ON
STAGE OF DRAMA PURELY AS RED-HERRING. WHOLE PURPOSE OF INVEN-
TION HAD BEEN, AS BEING NOW CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED IN CONGRESS-
SIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE, TO PUT PRESSURE IN CONGRESS TO APPROVE
HUGE EXPENDITURE
BY THEIR GOVERNMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
(DIEGO) GARCIA BASE. PROOF OF THIS FACT, AMONG OTHERS,
DISPLAYED BY OBJECTIONS OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD AND LATER
SENATOR JOHN CULBER WHO HAS HIMSELF EVEN MOTIONED (SIC) CON-
GRESS TO LAY SIX-MONTHS' DELAY ON CONSTRUCTION BECAUSE OF SHADY
GOVERNMENT UNJUSTIFIABLE REASONS FOR ITS CREATION (SIC).

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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SECONDLY, SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PRIOR TO REVOLUTION WAS IN
STATE OF POLITICAL CHAOS, NOT ONLY AT HOME, BUT (ALSO BECAUSE
IT) OFFERED ITSELF AS CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RIVALRY, GIVING
HER UNDIGNIFIED DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES FOR ITS POINTLESS
MISDIRECTION (SIC). REVOLUTION SET GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND

DIRECTED PEOPLE WITH NEW SPIRIT AND NOBLE BEARING TOWARDS WORTHWHILE LIVELIHOOD. WE DETERMINED TO BE TRULY INDEPENDENT, AND HISTORY HAS ALWAYS SHOWN SUCH INDEPENDENCE, UNWAVERING AND UNCOMPROMISABLE, HAS BEEN CAUSE OF DISCOMFORT AND DISPLEASURE FOR IMPERIAL MOTIVES (SIC).

ALTHOUGH SOMALIA RECEIVES AID FROM WELL-WISHING AND WELL-INTENTIONED COUNTRIES, SHE TAKES IT IN THAT SPIRIT AND WITHOUT CONDITIONS. WORLD CERTAINLY KNOWS BY NOW THAT OUR PRINCIPLES, POLITICAL DESTINY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ARE NOT AND WILL NEVER BE CONDITIONAL ON AIDS FROM WHICH EVERY QUARTER (SIC) THAT MAY HAVE DESIGNS TO CHANGE COURSE WE HAVE PROMISED OURSELVES TO TAKE.

WITH THAT BACKGROUND AND WITH CHARACTERISTIC SOMALI RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL GOOD-WILL, SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC MADE SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE ALREADY CLOUDY RELATIONSHIP WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES. WE DID NOT CREATE TENSION. WE DID NOT HEED THEM. WE EASED STRAINS AND OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND SOVEREIGN WILL. WE SOUGHT AT EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNMENT LEVELS TO CREATE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO SUCH CREATIVE AND POSITIVE APPROACHES INTO ALL INTERNATIONAL INTERCOURSE (SIC), BUT SOMEHOW, AND SEEMINGLY WITH STRIKING REPETITION, GOVERNMENT OF UNITED STATES HAS CLOSED COMMUNICATION LINES BY MAINTAINING AGGRESSIVE AND AIMLESS ATTACKS WHICH DEEMED ANY POSITIVE AMELIORATIONS REMOTELY IMPOSSIBLE (SIC).

SOMALIA ALWAYS TRIED TO EXPLORE ALL WAYS FOR NORMALIZING RELATIONS TO THE EXTENT THAT PRESIDENT SIAD, IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN 1974 AT WASHINGTON, MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO HONESTLY DISPLAY TRUE ASPIRATIONS, COMMITMENTS, TASKS AND OTHER RELEVANT ASPECTS OF SDR IN ORDER DISPELL ONCE AND FOR ALL APPREHENSIONS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. WE EXPLAINED THE SAME MANY TIMES TO PROMINENT AMERICANS IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE, OFFICIALLY AND IN PRIVATE FRIENDLY TERMS - PEOPLE INCLUDING SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN, JOURNALISTS, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND OTHER DIGNITARIES. OUR AMBASSADOR AT WASHINGTON HAD SPECIAL MANDATE TO MAINTAIN THAT BASE AND CONTACT AT ALL TIMES, BUT RESPONSES OF UNITED STATES HAS ALWAYS BEEN NEGATIVE, AND EVEN WITH CURRENT REVISIT OF (DIEGO) GARCIA AFFAIR, WE HAVE REASONABLE MISGIVINGS WHETHER SHE WILL, AGAINST SUCH CUSTOMARY DESTRUCTIVE MOODS, TAKE ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTIVE OUTLOOK IN FINAL OFFICIAL RECONSIDERATION, (EVEN) WHEN ALL CONTENTIONS OF (U.S.) GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN DISPROVED BY ITS OWN LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. BUT WE SINCERELY HOPE SOMETIME IN NEAR FUTURE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL FINALLY COME OUT OF GLOOM AND SEE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN TRUE PRESPECTIVE.

END TEXT.
LOUGHRAN

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